

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Sponsors needed for 350th celebration laser lightshow

Jamestown's 350th celebration, slated for Aug. 11 to 19, promises to be a great week-long festival with activities for all islanders young and old.

The closing event will be something new and different for the island — a laser lightshow at East Ferry on Sunday, Aug. 19, set to the lively music of the Jamestown Community Band.

The generous folks at the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority have offered to underwrite a major portion of the laser lightshow. However, additional sponsors are required to make it happen. About \$3,000 more is needed. If you would like to donate to the cause, contact the 350th Celebration Committee chairman, Charlie Petit. He can be reached by e-mail at cpetit22@cox.net. The Jamestown Press will contribute \$100 to the cause.

The 350th celebration week gets underway on Saturday, Aug. 11 with the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce Night at the Light at Fox Hill Farm to benefit Dutch Harbor lighthouse.

On Sunday, Aug. 12, there will be a parade down Narragansett Avenue and the dedication of our new Town Hall. A concert at East Ferry caps the day.

During the week, many activities are scheduled. On Monday, Aug. 13, there will be a family picnic at Ft. Wetherill, and also an afternoon tea hosted by the Quononoquott Garden Club. On Tuesday, Aug. 14, there will be an agricultural history tour of the island. On Wednesday, Aug. 15, an island bike ride and historical scavenger hunt is planned. On Thursday, Aug. 16, the Jamestown Community Chorus will stage its annual Talent Show, and the Historical Society will have its annual meeting.

On Friday, Aug. 17, tours of island farms are scheduled. Saturday, Aug. 18, features the Jamestown Yacht Club's Fool's Rules Regatta, the annual Craft Show, and Kid's Day at the Fire Station.

The band concert and laser lightshow completes the schedule on the evening of Sunday, Aug. 19.

— Jeff McDonough



Welcome to new school head

The School Committee approved the appointment of Dr. Marcia Lukon as part-time superintendent of Jamestown Schools at our July 12 meeting.

Dr. Lukon comes to us from Massachusetts, where she recently retired as superintendent of the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District and served previously as superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools. She also brings to the Jamestown position valuable experience as a director of curriculum, an elementary principal, a director of testing and assessment, and a classroom

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teacher. This breadth and depth of knowledge make her an ideal candidate for the Jamestown superintendency — a job that entails wearing many different hats!

The school committee is grateful to current Superintendent Dr. Robert Power for his leadership during the past year. Our appointment of a new superintendent is not an indication of dissatisfaction with Bob, but rather a move to achieve greater continuity for the district. As a Rhode Island retiree, Bob is limited by retirement board regulations to a one-year

contract. Dr. Lukon is not subject to this state's retirement regulations and hence can make a multiple-year commitment that will provide the district with greater stability. We thank Bob for agreeing to continue to work with the school department to complete the teacher contract negotiations now in progress.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such highly qualified leaders. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Marcia Lukon to the community.

**Cathy Kaiser
Chair, Jamestown
School Committee**

Kudos for Tall Ships efforts

I would like to recognize several organizations and people who made the fire department response to the Tall Ships 2007 event a major success.

First, I would like to recognize the 35 men and women who spent their entire Sunday on duty prepared to respond to any and all emergencies that may have taken place. The members on duty were Deputy Chief Ken Gladding, Deputy Chief Howie Tighe, Capt. Mike Pinksaw, Capt. Keith Godena, Capt. Brian Bryer, Capt. Roy Richardson, Capt. Marcus Cochran, Capt. Dick Wing, Lt. Alan Weaver, Lt.

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The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 19, 1907

There was a large gathering last evening at the ferry to listen to the band concert.

From the Newport Daily News, July 22, 1907

Parties of sailors on shore leave from battleship Rhode Island, which is anchored off the east shore, are landed here daily.

From the Newport Daily News, July 23, 1907

The overseer of the poor was present (at the town council meeting), and asked for an appropriation of \$3.00 per week for the support of one of the town's poor, which was allowed.

The Bay View Annex was sold yesterday at auction, the mortgagee, the Industrial Trust Company of Newport bidding it in at \$2,000.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 15, 1932

The application of Joseph Hodge to hold a public dance in the town hall was granted (by the town council), fee \$15, the applicant to furnish his own police protection.

Helen Purdue who has opened a gown and hat shop on Conanicus avenue is showing a beautiful line of silk prints, also knit frocks and attractive beach coats at reduced prices.

From the Newport Daily News, July 16, 1932

The Beaver Tail golf course will be closed to the public on and after September 6, 1932, according to an announcement made today by Audley Clarke, its owner and builder. In 1933 the club will be opened as a private club and will be incorporated by Mr. Clarke's counsel, Sheffield & Harvey.

This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of July 19

From the Newport Daily News, July 20, 1932

Robert G. Caswell of Newtonville, Mass., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Caswell, proprietors of the Bayview Hotel, has written a play, "Master of Whale Rock," the scene of which centers around Whale Rock Light, in the west passage of Narragansett Bay, and the people of the Narragansett country and their characteristics.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 17, 1957

The Jamestown teenage Townies and the Narragansett Pier teenagers baseball teams were tied 5 and 5 in Jamestown last night when the 5-inning limitation halted the game.

From the Newport Daily News, July 19, 1957

Continual progress is being made on the restoration of Jamestown's historic windmill which will be in operation during Old Home Week, August 10-17.

From the Newport Daily News, July 20, 1957

The chairman and committee of the Jamestown Tercentenary Inc. sent a telegram to President Dwight D. Eisenhower inviting him to attend the final revue and closing exercises of the 300th anniversary of the island's purchase from the Indians.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 22, 1982

Department of Transportation Director has said he is "flexible" on the width of a new Jamestown Bridge. ... The Jamestown bridge cannot handle traffic flow on peak summer weekends, he added. State consultants say there will be a 39 percent increase of traffic with a four-lane bridge and an 83 percent increase with a larger bridge.

Jamestown officials recognized their responsibility to protect residents from fire as early as 1894, when the town approved the purchase of a horsedrawn fire pumper at \$3,300. That figure represented more than 19 percent of the town's entire budget (about \$16,957.11) that year.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 16, 1992

This weekend thousands of spectators will flock to Newport Harbor to view the stately square-rigged vessels that have assembled for the Tall Ships Newport '92 celebration. ... Jamestown officials expect Monday's parade to have "a major impact" on the island, and will close off boat ramps and five roads early in the morning as part of their plan to control the situation.

The Town Council adopted an ordinance Monday that limits parking at the recently completed parking lot on Narragansett Avenue to a maximum of two hours during daytime business hours.

Renovations to the Jamestown Recreation Center, which include public restrooms, a lounge area, and a new ceiling and paint job for the foyer, are expected to be completed this week.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 17, 1997

A bill approved by state policymakers will officially name Route 138 between the Jamestown and Newport bridges the John Eldred Parkway. The naming commemorates John Eldred, an island farmer and retired sea captain in the 1770s who took shots at British ships sailing along the East Passage with a cannon he salvaged from an abandoned fort.

Some \$21,000 in federal money has been awarded to Jamestown through the state's Small Cities and Community Development Block Grant program.

Jamestown's 200-year old Conanicut Friends Quaker meetinghouse will soon be deeded to the Jamestown Historical Society in order to preserve the structure for years to come.